

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
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FM USMISSION USBERLIN
TO AMEMBASSY BONN
SECSTATE WASHDC 6260

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 0375

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, AKB, BQG
SUBJECT: TWO ENQUIRIES RE EXFILTRATION

1. ANDREA LORENZ OF SPIEGEL CALLED MISSION ON FEBRUARY 13
IN CONNECTION WITH THE 1974 CASE OF KAI-UWE NIERENDORF.
HE REVIEWED THE CASE AS HE UNDERSTOOD IT (APPARENTLY
NIERENDORF HAS CONTACTED SPIEGEL) AND THEN POSED TWO
SPECIFIC QUESTIONS:
A. CAN THE ALLIES EXPEL A GERMAN FROM WEST BERLIN?
B. WHAT DID HAPPEN IN 1974 TO CAUSE NIERENDORF TO LEAVE WEST
BERLIN?

PAO TOLD HIM WE WOULD TRY TO GET BACK TO HIM THIS WEEK.
HOWEVER, LORENZ CALLED AGAIN TO SEE IF WE HAD ANSWERS YET,
BUT ALSO TO PUT A THIRD QUESTION:
C. WHAT IS THE ALLIED POSITION REGARDING EXCAPES FROM THE GDR?

2. HERR SKIRKA OF REUTERS ON FEBRUARY 15 ASKED FOR
COMMENT ON A REPORT THAT THE SOVIETS HAD APPROACHED THE
FRENCH COMMANDANT TO PROTEST ABOUT ORGANIZATIONS EXISTING
TO ASSIST EAST GERMANS WISHING TO ESCAPE, AND TO REQUEST THAT
SUCH ORGANIZATIONS BE ELIMINATED. ACCORDING TO REUTERS,
GENERAL D'ASTORG HAS PASSED ALL THIS TO THE FRG IN BONN. SKIRKA
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WANTED TO KNOW IF WE COULD CONFIRM THIS AND ALSO ADDED THE SAME
QUESTION THAT LORENZ HAD PUT TO US ABOUT THE ALLIED POSITION RE
ESCAPES FROM THE GDR.

3. PAO TOLD SKIRKA LATER WE HAD NOTHING TO SAY ON THE SOVIET-
FRENCH MATTER, WHICH CAME AS NO SURPRISE TO HIM. HE THEN VOLUNTEER-
ED THAT LATER INFO INDICATED THAT ABRASIMOV HAD APPROACHED MR.

BRUNET (NOT D'ASTORG) AND THAT BRUNET HAD HAD THE MATTER DISCUSSED BY THE ALLIES HERE--AT A "MIDDLE LEVEL"--AND THAT BRUNET HAD ALSO RECOMMENDED TO THE FRG THAT IT TAKE SOME MEASURES TO CURTAIL ESCAPE ACTIVITY. SKIRKA SAID REUTERS HAD THIS INFORMATION FROM WELL INFORMED SOURCES HERE AND IN BONN.

4. COMMENT. WE ARE PUTTING BOTH QUESTIONS ON HOLD. THIS SUDDEN INTEREST IN EXFILTRATION SEEMS TO HAVE ITS ORIGIN IN THE CURRENT FRG POLICY REVIEW OF THE QUESTION WITH REFERENCE TO INCREASED GDR SEARCHES ON THE ACCESS ROUTES. WE SURMISE THAT SOME OF THE BONN GROUP DISCUSSIONS HAVE LEAKED. GEORGE

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